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NPIC/TSG/RED-236-70
29 September 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Chief, Logistics Branch, SS

SUBJECT : Documentation and Control of Prototype Items

1. You had requested RED's comments concerning Chief, Supply Division/OL's recommendations in the area of documentation and control of prototype items.

2. RED has reviewed the documentation and there are only three areas of immediate concern. The first item relates to responsibilities and procedures. We feel that this will require some discussion since within TSG there is a dual responsibility with regard to prototypes depending upon whether the item is under the cognizance of the Research & Engineering Division or the Engineering Support Division. This is related, of course, to whether the item is actually in an active test and evaluation role. This question can only be resolved by some mutual discussions among ESD, Logistics Branch, and RED. The second item of concern is the statement that cognizant officers will maintain a file jacket using the appropriate contract number as a file control number, which will include all documentation concerning the item, its location and/or disposition. Such a procedure would be highly inefficient , since it would require extensive duplication of records on RED's part. It would be much easier to maintain this as an intrical part of our contract folder which is not maintained by contract number. Because obviously the project folder must be in existence long before the contract is actually negotiated. There are numerous other reasons why the contract number is a very poor designator; however, these are too numerous to mention in this short memorandum. It would be hoped that some alternate procedure can be mutually agreed upon.

3. The third item of concern relates to breadboard equipment. As long as we restrict ourselves to the definition of prototype as stated in the memorandum of agreement, we should have no problems. However, any explanation of that definition could get us into some "sticky" areas because we do much "breadboarding" and unfortunately breadboarding is a rather ill-defined term.

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Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

Deputy Chief,
Research & Engineering Division,
TSG

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